

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : AC/PPS

DATE: 27 November 1957

FROM : C/LAS

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #48

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Date	3-10-78
By	35

## A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to report.

## B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. For the first time in three years, I feel that a QRP erred in its recommendation for choice of superficially similar courses in terms of particular individual aptitudes. Correction of this error, which became apparent as the individual's performance was observed during the first weeks of training, is being made by transfer of the individual from an Agency course to an FSI course, believed to be more suitable to the aptitudes of this student. While witting faulty placement is not an uncommon consequence of inflexible restrictions imposed by sponsors, or arbitrary insistence on a particular place without recognition of the differences in suitability of various courses, this is the first instance I know when the uninhibited judgment of a panel erred. In this instance, the Panel had some reservations on desirability of any intensive training but sublimated these in recognition that the case was borderline, rather than clearcut, and that motivation was high. In effect, the consequences of a mild leniency by the Panel emphasize the general effectiveness of its recommendations and the undesirability of deviating far therefrom because of special considerations.

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2. Our best efforts, with PO/TR's help, have thus far failed to obtain [redacted] on three months' tour to handle the proposed Basic Country Survey-Hungary. EE has been unable to place him on permanent assignment since he re-25X1A6a turned from [redacted] over three months ago, and he is now on interim assignment in TSS. Organization of the course is now virtually completed, and we have tentative commitments of over a dozen Agency students.

3. Our experiment in the BCS-Germany with a "Culture Series" of four lectures on formative influences, literature and philosophy, music and fine arts, 25X1A9a respectively, was an outstanding success. Guest speakers, all of whom would meet the highest university standards in their fields, were [redacted] (EE). The first two talks, the most difficult 25X1A9a cult, we considered brilliant syntheses for our audiences of widely disparate academic backgrounds. [redacted] who has taught German language and literature at 25X1A9a Harvard, pulled together the principal historical influences on the Germans' cultural achievement and also succeeded in putting his finger on what distinguishes

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the Germans' from other nations' artistic inclinations. [REDACTED] who gives [REDACTED] continuing assistance on current German publications, had been working up his talk since the culture series was planned last spring and succeeded in surveying even the obscurities of contemporary philosophers in a layman's language. We feel strongly that this introduction to the culture of a foreign nation has considerable operational value as a first step toward an adequate briefing in a field which is a far more useful topic of conversation in Europe, for example, than in America.

4. Alexander Klieforth, Chief of the Western Europe Division in USIA's Voice of America Program, gave a highly valuable survey of communications media in BCS-Germany. He is exceptionally well-informed on press and radio matters, and is committed to do a similar talk in the upcoming BCS-France. In addition, he will lead a discussion in German in the prospective Integrated Language/Area Study-Germany.

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5. [REDACTED] continued to work with [REDACTED] on preparation of background handbooks for Training Officers and Case Officers on [REDACTED]

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6. With the assembly of the new shelves in the library at 1914 Quarters Eye, the Eastern Language and Area Studies Library is now reorganized, rearranged and brought up-to-date, making it a more efficient working tool.

7. [REDACTED] to the China Area Class on 20 November and 25 November.

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8. [REDACTED] conferred over the weekend with [REDACTED] on the subject of Language and Area Training, discussing the possibility of making available to LAS selective members of the faculty of SALS on an exchange basis and at no expense to OTR. This will be explored further.

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9. On 21 November, the Estonian, Persian, Thai, and Yiddish tests were scheduled, but no one registered for them.

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10. [REDACTED] attended the regular meeting of the Language Development Committee on 21 November.

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11. [REDACTED] worked on detailed proposals for the administration of the awards program.

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12. [REDACTED] consulted with Mrs. [REDACTED] of AES/TR about the reproduction and correction of tests.

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13. Work was started on the typing of the Swedish test for reproduction by the new Mimeograph recently acquired by the Administrative Branch. This is the beginning of the program of reproduction of the new tests, to be finished by the beginning of February.

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14. [REDACTED] has returned to duty from LWOP for personal study.

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